

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of transdifferentiating a monocytic cell into an endothelial cell, comprising:
 - providing a monocytic cell; and
 - artificially increasing the expression of pleiotrophin (PTN) in the monocytic cell by transducing the monocytic cell *in vitro* with a retrovirus expressing PTN such that the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the retrovirus is a bicistronic retrovirus.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the monocytic cell is a RAW cell or a THP-1 cell.
5. (Previously Presented) An isolated endothelial cell, produced by the method, comprising:
 - providing a monocytic cell; and
 - artificially increasing the expression of pleiotrophin (PTN) in the monocytic cell by transducing the monocytic cell *in vitro* with a retrovirus expressing PTN such that the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell.

Claims 6 (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) The isolated endothelial cell of claim 5, wherein the retrovirus is a bicistronic retrovirus.
8. (Previously Presented) The isolated endothelial cell of claim 5, wherein the monocytic cell is a RAW cell or a THP-1 cell.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell *in vitro*.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell *in vivo*.

13. (Previously Presented) The isolated endothelial cell of claim 5, wherein the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into the endothelial cell *in vitro*.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

15. (New) An endothelial cell, produced by the method, comprising:
providing a monocytic cell; and
artificially increasing the expression of pleiotrophin (PTN) in the monocytic cell by transducing the monocytic cell *in vitro* with a retrovirus expressing PTN such that the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into an endothelial cell.

16. (New) The endothelial cell of claim 15, wherein the retrovirus is a bicistronic retrovirus.

17. (New) The endothelial cell of claim 15, wherein the monocytic cell is a RAW cell or a THP-1 cell.

18. (New) The endothelial cell of claim 15, wherein the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into the endothelial cell *in vitro*.

19. (New) The endothelial cell of claim 15, wherein the monocytic cell transdifferentiates into the endothelial cell *in vivo*.